

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS PLEAD FOR ROMANIAN DOGS

Rescue Association Hobo Dogs, together with over 200 other European associations, has on 23 January 2014 co-signed a letter to the European Commission, urging the Commission to finally intervene in the cruel treatment of dogs in Romania.

The letter demonstrates clearly that the European Commission has the legal competence to intervene. According to independent legal research, a solid legal basis for an intervention already exists under Article 13 (Animal Welfare) and Article 168 (Public Health) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Other relevant pieces of EU legislation include, among others, Council Decision 2009/470/EC and Commission Decision 2008/341/EC governing the criteria of EU financial assistance to member states.

The Commission must intervene without any further delay in order to prevent further pain and suffering. The EU Commission should insist that Romania urgently implements long-term measures for dog population control in accordance with international best practice.

The European spokesperson for the initiative, Mr. Robert Smith, states as follows:

“It is finally time for the EU Commission to stop the atrocities going on in Romania. Romania receives millions of euros every year from the EU to co-finance its Rabies Eradication Programme. By way of a condition in the programme, Romania has promised to control its dog population. Romania has decided to implement dog population control by way of collecting hundreds of thousands of dogs. Whereas financing, facilities and new homes are not, in practice, available to accommodate the high number of dogs, the essential content of the policy will mean killing the dogs. Killing is an expensive and ineffective method, because the removed dogs are soon replaced by new fertile dogs. However, EU law calls for the use of humane and effective methods. As long as the Commission tolerates this disguised Catch & Kill programme as a method of dog population control, Romania’s efforts to control its surplus dog population will continue to fail at huge expense to the taxpayer. This will continue to cause suffering to citizens as well as their dogs.”

We urge the members of the European Parliament to share the grave concern of European citizens, and support our initiative.

Campaign on internet: europeancommunicationsteam.weebly.com

Campaign on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/European-Communications-Team/583260628426222>

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